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In view of the official closing of the Federal Government offices in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, including the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), on Tuesday, January 2, 2007, the day proclaimed by President Bush as a National Day of Mourning, the United States Patent and Trademark Office will consider Tuesday, January 2, 2007 a "Federal holiday within the District of Columbia" under 35 U.S.C. § 21 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.6, 1.7, 1.9, 2.2(d), 2.195, and 2.196. Any action or fee due on Tuesday, January 2, 2007, will be considered as timely for the purposes of, e.g., 35 U.S.C. §§ 119, 120, 133 and 151, if the action is taken, or the fee is paid, on the next succeeding business day on which the USPTO was open, that is, Wednesday, January 3, 2007.

37 C.F.R. §§ 1.6(a)(2) and 2.195(a)(4) provide that correspondence deposited as Express Mail in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 or 2.198 will be considered as filed on the date of deposit with the United States Postal Service (USPS). Thus, any paper or fee properly deposited in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 or 2.198 with the Express Mail service of the USPS on Tuesday, January 2, 2007 (that is, as shown by a "date-in" of Tuesday, January 2, 2007, on the Express Mail mailing label) will be considered filed in the USPTO on its date of deposit in the Express Mail service of the USPS.

37 C.F.R. § 2.195(a)(2) provides that trademark-related correspondence transmitted electronically to the USPTO will be considered filed in the USPTO on the date the USPTO receives the electronic transmission. Thus, trademark-related correspondence transmitted electronically on Tuesday, January 2, 2007, will be considered filed in the USPTO on the date the USPTO received the electronic transmission. Correspondence successfully received by the USPTO through the patent Electronic Filing System will receive the date as indicated on the Acknowledgment Receipt.

KEY: =online business system =fees =forms =help =laws/regulations =definition (glossary)

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